

74.25.56

7

you fragrant roses were on  
our table on the ship  
Geordie and I have table 2022  
to our selves -  
We have a real waiter  
Will send you a bill  
of fare. Everything we had  
was delicious.  
We breakfast in Red and  
Mrs Munro is our stewardess  
very fine looking woman  
and seems very kind -  
we have not one permanent  
stateroom but 2014. You said



# MRS. NASMITH BEGAN LITTLE THEATRE HERE

Cult of Amateur Actors Stems  
Back to Priestess in Gre-  
cian Temple

ON NORTH STREET

By AUGUSTUS BRIDLE

Death of Emma Scott Nasmith removes one of the most inspired enthusiasts ever known in Toronto's drama and music. Her passion for good drama was a glow that for decades one might meet on almost any downtown corner, in any foyer, under any theatre portico, on the promenade of Hart House—pausing in some bluster of a bleak wind to praise some actor, singer, player or production. Thousands of amateur actors here, who never knew her in person, may now remember that she was the apostle of amateur dramatic art in a city moving in a frenzy away from many of her ideals of experience.

For five years Mrs. Nasmith had been less able to hear and see the world of platform art. She had grown gradually deaf in a world of splendid sound. At the climax of screen acoustics and radio perfection in music she had moved into a world of pantomime.

It amazed one drama leader here, whose early inspirations came from Mrs. Nasmith, to meet scores of folk at the funeral, remembering that their first impulses to beauty in music and drama were the work of this luminous apostle.

## Was Dean of Dramatics

My first glimpse of this gifted evangel of art was at the old College of Music, reading Shakespeare in the little hall where in the orbit of Torrington she first became generally known in Toronto. For years she was the dean of dramatics at the college. There also she broadened her horizons in music. Her readings were themselves a ritual of sweet sound. She knew Shakespeare.

This was a prelude to a greater work in founding the Little Theatre Movement in Toronto. Just about 40 years ago Mrs. Nasmith came back from a visit to Athens burning with zeal to establish a little theatre that might be to Canada in a small way what the ancient classic theatre had been to Greece. In Margaret Eaton hall still are the exiled Grecian lamps from Toronto's first little theatre built on what was then North St., with the financial backing and the personal enthusiasm of Margaret Eaton, who was one of Mrs. Nasmith's early students in the art of drama. The first time these lamps ever flickered in Toronto was in the wonderful little theatre that was the focus and forum of the Margaret Eaton School of Dramatic Art, of which Mrs. Nasmith was the founder preceptress.

## Followed Grecian Ideal

Here in a grove-sheltered, buff-brick building of Grecian design, copied from one in Athens, she established Toronto's first distinctive school of drama, involving the old Grecian ideal of culture in both

body and mind. The rooms in this sequestered little college-temple vibrated with the color, costumes, vocal art and body-culture of plays that were staged in the little theatre directed by Mrs. Nasmith. Here was Shakespeare as it was in Tudor days; here, the first Irish plays ever done in Canada — for Mrs. Nasmith had found a new sort of Athens in Dublin; here, the first systematic cult of little theatre plays in many forms, before Roy Mitchell began his improvisations down at Court Lane, and years before Hart House theatre was built. Car lines changed the old streets northward to Bloor. Secluded North St., whose holy of holies was the little temple of dramatic art, was broadened into Bay to take the traffic of Bloor. The new street line bit off the portico of the Grecian temple, which, driven out by traffic, moved its lares et penates, with the flickering Grecian lamps, to what for years had been the first Y.M.C.A. in Toronto. Margaret Eaton Hall became the theatre of the larger Margaret Eaton temple, whose high priestess had sadly headed its exodus from North St. where it began.

## Work Became Diffused

From that time on Mrs. Nasmith's work in music and drama became more diffused, but not less dynamic. For years she was the forefront of appreciation in drama and music. The Nasmith home on Oriole Rd. was a rendezvous of actors, musicians, art-lovers, among whom Col. Nasmith, amateur painter, was himself one of the most ardent appreciators in both drama and music—in a world whose movies, radio plays and enormously extended music made all such haunts as the temple of dramatic art on North St. seem like exquisite archaics.

But the glowing personality of Emma Scott Nasmith survives along with that of her old beloved mentor, Torrington, whose memory she strove for years to perpetuate in a memorial.

74.25.57  
Toronto Star  
July 24/1940



Verse by E.S.N.

Emmeline's Creed - from fly leaf of her Bible  
1894

Sequins

Hugh Blacklock Allan

The Little House

White Caps - published

Original

From a Cottage Window 1925

My Star Christmas 1912

A Valentine

Good bye

Nothing in it wrote the lady





mag's.



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 E. M. PAYNE, Supt., Winnipeg, Man.

**J. McMILLAN,**  
 Manager, Telegraphs, Montreal.

20 KB W 10:20 S.S. Luscania radio  
 Cape Race Nfld 24  
 Mrs George Masmitz  
 Margaret Eaton School  
 North St.  
 Well happy loop forward  
 to may leave George.

FROM CADENAHAN'S DRUG STORE,  
 BLOOR & YONGE.  
 Phones, North 341 & 342

74.25.00

TELEGRAPH CO.  
 TICKET OFFICE  
 1111 2000

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EBBY, General Manager.

of Canada.

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**J. McMILLAN,**  
Manager Telegraphs, Montreal.

2 RN NS MR 8-18

9 cable

Liverpool Jan. 31st. 1916

Mrs George Nasmith  
Toronto.

Love from England.

George Nasmith.

From CARNAHAN'S DRUG STORE,  
BLOOR & YONGE.  
Phones, North 341 & 342

74-25-61

74.25.60

TELEGRAPH CO.  
OFFICE  
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Z. A. LASH, President.

HEAD OFFICE: TORONTO.

GEO. D. PERRY, General Manager.

13 N. K. 206 PM. CABLEGRAM 8

Plymouth, Oct. 16-14

E. Scott Raff,

(2 Roslyn Apts., Glen Road, Toronto)

Arrived well love.

Nasmith.

G.N.W. TELEGRAPH CO.  
BRANCH OFFICE  
HOSEASON'S TICKET OFFICE  
740 FONGE ST.  
PHILADELPHIA NORTH 3663

79.25.62



Teachers College  
Columbia University

OFFICE OF THE  
DIRECTOR OF TECHNICAL EDUCATION  
TELEPHONE, 4585 MORNINGSIDE

SCHOOL OF INDUSTRIAL ARTS  
SCHOOL OF HOUSEHOLD ARTS

May 1st, 1911.

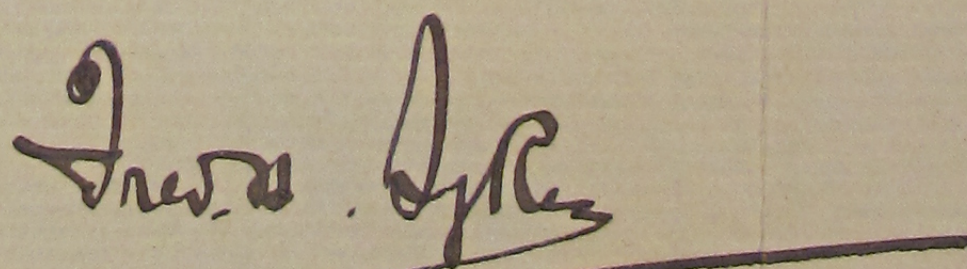
Mrs. Scott Raff,  
The Margaret Eaton School of  
Literature and Expression,  
North St., Toronto.

Dear Mrs. Raff,

May I express the pleasure I had from your reading of Yeats's dramas at Teachers College recently. The note of poignant melancholy, the fine touch of poetry and wonder of the Celtic revival you were able to convey in such a way that the evening was memorable.

With best wishes,

Faithfully yours,



Director.

74-25-63









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